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Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

WORK FOR MAY.

The month of May, said an old farmer to us the other day, "is a rusher for work." In our latitude, winter is loth to quit, and lingers around us as if he hated to part with good company, but when he has gone the spring tide of warm weather comes on rapidly, and the farmer's work comes on with equal pace and he seems to be crowded with care and duties on every hand, and for every moment of his time.

If, however, he has had the means and the foresight to take time by the forelock, (they say the old fellow is bald behind, and doesn't wear a cue), he can get along very comfortably, and arrange his work so systematically that every requirement of his farm and garden can be attended to as it presents itself. It is not always that the means accompany the foresight, and hence some are compelled to do the best they can under the circumstances in which they find themselves.

Planting and sowing are the great work for this month. In order to effect this, the first thing to be done is to get the soil ready. Putting on the dressing or manuring is first necessary, after you have done this, ploughing or spading comes next. This every farmer will do, as soon as he finds the ground in good condition. If it be wet, so as to be adhesive and clog up the plough, he had better let it alone until it will turn over easily and be suitably pulverized by the operation. The great object of this operation is to divide and pulverize the soil in as complete a manner as can be done by any instruments or implements that we can command, and the best time to do it is when the earth has not too much or too little moisture.

PLANTING. The same may be said of planting and sowing. You hasten nothing by putting in the seed, until the earth becomes prepared for its reception, by being warmed up by the sun and the spring breezes. It is true, that some seeds, such as wheat and peas, can be put in before the season has much advanced, and do well. Other varieties of vegetables will not stand freezing and thawing as these will. Some are very ambitious to plant Indian corn on the first day of May, whatever may be the state of the weather. There is no great wisdom in this. Better let nature guide rather than the amateur. She always throws out signals for your guidance. The Indians were wise enough to follow her teachings, and made it a rule never to plant their corn until the shad bush (planting bush or wild pear) had become fully in bloom or the leaves of the oak had become as large as a mouse's ear whether it was on the first day of May or not until the first day of June. Nevertheless, it is well to provide for early crops.

Our winters are long and we must all eat to live and live to eat, and sometimes our cellars begin to get empty of potatoes, and our larders to look rather lean and lanky before summer.

Hence it is incumbent upon us to hurry up the new crop as fast as possible, to supply the wants of the mortal part of us. Besides, it is very refreshing, to say nothing of the nutrition afforded to have early peas, and new potatoes, and green corn, and cucumbers, and beans, radishes, and turnips, and such like dietetics for the table. The sooner we get these, the sooner the visions of warm vineyards on our larders, and the spirit rappings of poverty about our vacant potato bins, and corn cobs become hushed. We "breathe freer," and of course, stronger. So put in the early crops and then follow on strong with later ones. We need not go into details on these points. Every farmer can divide off his farm to receive, and his time to apply these things to suit himself. There is one thing however connected with this labor which will suggest, and that is to

TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR TEAM. The farmer's team is his locomotive, his steam engine, by which he operates. Unlike the locomotive, however, it has no inanimate iron or brass or senseless wood in its frame and structure. It is a living, breathing, mortal fabric like ourselves, dependent upon a daily supply of food for its existence and on intervals of rest for the continuance of its strength.

Some of us have been short of hay and provender, and the animal strength has been curtailed accordingly—even if it was not so, and your team has had enough to keep it strong and trusty; the changes of the season from cold and bracing to warm and relaxing weather, will have powerful action on their animal system, and they will require prudent care, prudent feeding, and prudent driving, to keep up their energy and activity. Many a valuable ox has been spoiled for service in the yoke by being driven a half hour too long in a warm May day. A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast.

A HINT ON POTATO PLANTING.

There has been much written in the agricultural papers by way of discussion, in regard to the best mode of setting a potato field. Some contend that large potatoes are best for planting, on the principle, we suppose, that "like produces like,"—others contend that "like potatoes are just as good and a little better—because the potato being a tuber, or part of the root, and not the real seed, all you want is to afford a sprout, and it will grow just as well as a sprout from a larger body. Others contend that an eye (which is only the rudiment of a sprout) is as good as the whole potato, be it great or little.

Gerald Howard, of Newton, N. J., who recommends the planting of a single eye to a hill, has given some facts and observations in the "Country Gentleman" which will be worth knowing to all potato planters, especially if they cut their potatoes or use only a single eye to a hill.

He says, "in dropping the set in the drill, turn the eye of the set on the bottom of the drill—that is, skin next the earth. By doing so your bud or stalk takes root immediately at the base (by set). If planted, cut-side down, they will not rot at the set, but one joint above. In

dropping, it is as easy to do right as wrong. This also gives a longer stem."

He also directs that "in all cases where manure is applied in drills or hills, (drills are preferable,) let it be applied under the set, in no case over it. If applied over the sets, the rains wash the liquid of the manure to the young shoot or shoots and injure them."

We have known instances where single eyes or sprouts were cut from potatoes and planted in new ground, or what in this State is called "on a burn," and first rate crops obtained. We are inclined to think that the material condition of the soil has as much to do with the production of a good crop, as the size of the set. A strong healthy sprout or eye is requisite, whether it starts from a whole large potato or a small one, or from a single eye.

WAIFS FROM OUR COPY DRAWER.

BLOOD WARTS. Referring to the cure for "blood warts" on cows, which we published a few weeks since, Mr. A. F. Snow, of Brunswick, says a few applications of castor oil will kill any kind of warts on man or beast, without soreness.

GREAT CROPS. Many of our young men, and some even of our staid old farmers, have been induced to "go west," in the hope of bettering their fortunes,—of obtaining great crops from the virgin soil of the West,—forgetting that they might, by proper management, obtain equally good crops in Maine, for which they would obtain better prices, and at the same time, enjoy comfort and convenience which they would find it very difficult, if not impossible to obtain in a new country. We found, a few days since, a statement of a great yield from a small piece of land belonging to Mr. J. B. Burr, of Brewer, a portion of a fine farm owned and cultivated by him, given in the Bangor Jeffersonian, and which we copy, as a sample of what our Maine farmers can do, when they set about it:—

The piece of ground referred to contains about one and one-half acres, and from it was harvested, last fall, besides fodder enough to winter a cow,

40 bushels good sound corn,
270 " potatoes,
30 " turnips,
15 " carrots,
1 " peas,
1 " beans,
500 pumpkins.

And all this with "little labor." But let Mr. Burr tell his own story of management, etc. —

"I do not say that this was the most that could be raised, but this was the amount of the natural production with little labor. In the first place I plowed and harrowed my ground well; I set one half for potatoes, the other for corn, placing a little manure in each hill. I planted my corn by putting 5 kernels in a hill, 4 beans on one side of the corn and a pumpkin seed on the other. Apparently all the seeds germinated and came up. In weeding them I pulled up the poor ones of corn leaving three or four of the best. I let the pumpkins grow for the worms and bugs, but they left plenty for me. I cut a part of the seed potatoes and planted a part whole. I turned the whole best. I left a small strip for turnips and carrots."

The value of the crops would be about \$171, as follows:—Corn, \$36; potatoes, \$90; turnips, \$10; carrots, \$5; peas, \$1.50; beans, \$13.50; pumpkins, \$15. Perhaps we have not got the prices quite right, but it is near enough. Thus we make the annual product of an acre of land \$114, besides fodder, etc., which we have not reckoned. Cannot the farmer do well to stay at home, here in Maine, and improve his farm?

SOOT AND CHARCOAL FOR ONIONS. Besides the maggot, which is so destructive to the onion as to have wholly put a stop to its culture in many sections of the country, we have heard complaints of the rot, which proves more destructive even than the worm. A writer in the Germantown Telegraph recommends soot and charcoal as preventives. He gives the result of an examination of his onion beds, August 4, 1887, as follows:—

"Examined my onion beds; found that with two exceptions the entire crop is diseased. The rot has latterly assumed a new and more virulent type, the tops are dead. The exceptions to the rule are two southerly beds, six by thirteen feet, on which I sowed half a bushel of soot, raking it in before sowing the seed in the spring, applying the same quantity of pulverized charcoal as soon as the plants were up. There is not a symptom of disease apparent here; the tops still retain their verdure, and the roots are already of the size of a teaspoon, remarkably smooth and well formed."

BLACK KNOT ON PINE TREES. Many remedies have been proposed for this disease, but we believe none have yet been found effectual. However, we believe in giving everything a trial that looks probable or that comes well recommended, and accordingly we clip the following from one of our leading agricultural exchanges:—

Mr. C. R. Ball, of Cook County, O., says an old lady told him when a boy, that woolen rags burned beneath and on the windward side of the tree in the spring, say early in April, would prevent the black knot appearing and insure productivity. This he remembered, and has tried repeatedly, and with the best success. He believes it an infallible preventive.

TOP-DRESSING MEADOW LANDS has long been recommended in our columns as a certain means to prolong a full crop of grass to an almost indefinite period. In portions of Chester and Delaware counties, we have seen meadow land in grass, without disturbance, as we were assured, for fifty years; and the only top-dressing they ever received, was a little lime—thirty bushels to the acre—about every two years. We have ourselves top-dressed timely in the spring, followed by a couple of bushels of plaster to the acre, which gave us a full yield of grass for seven years, when the natural grasses asserted their superiority. We think it good policy to follow top-dressing with plaster—it protects the ammonia in the manure, giving the soil all the manurial influence, in addition to its own other anti-acid qualities, so valuable, especially in dry seasons. (Germantown Telegraph.)

MANURE SHEEDS AND BARN CELLARS.

Mr. Editor.—It was always natural for me to talk, and it may be the same propensity troubles me in relation to writing, for, if with talkers I talk, why not with writers, write?

Last week I noticed an article in the Farmer, in relation to sheds for manure; besides, for some time, I have occasionally heard farmers, who have not barn cellars, speak derogatively of them,—saying that the gases exhaled from them had an injurious effect on the hay, &c.; reminding one of the fable of *sour grapes*, or the *tailless fox*. Well, as I don't write very often for the Farmer, I will embrace both these subjects in one communication.

First, about the manure shed. It is an advantage, but in comparison with a barn cellar will not pay for building and keeping in repair. All farms are not adapted to barn cellars, naturally, but with a little expense extra, one can be made, and when once made you have a good cattle-shed and a far better manure shed than you can have any other way, besides just such a *hog house* as you want; and if properly made, I can see no possible way for the hay to be injured from it. The possession makes assurance doubly sure, and you prove the value of my experiment.

The farm on which I now live, till within a few years, had on it a barn so constructed that the manure was thrown into a sort of shed and kept till it was wanted for use, without exposure to the sun or storms, when it was shoveled out. I considered it very much better than that exposed in heaps outside the barn, and its effects on crops proved my supposition to be correct. Two years since, I moved and repaired the barn, placing it in such a situation as to be favorable to the making of a cellar, and also to admit all the drainings from the house into a portion of the cellar. The excavation was not great, as one end was, when leveled, nearly high enough.

The cellar is thirty by forty feet, and I have partitioned off one-third the width of the whole length for hogs and manure; this is on the south and east sides. The rest is open, affording a fine shed for cattle, with doors large enough to drive in a team and cart for manure, or to haul in muck. It being situated on land so much "siding," I have also a door on the westerly side. My hay is put over the open cellar, on a plank floor, and instead of its being injured has kept better than I have ever previously preserved hay. The manure in the shed, I said, was much better than that exposed to the weather. Now, I can say the manure from the cellar is much better (besides I make considerable more) than that in the shed; and here is a plain reason: For I have the whole advantage of the urine made from the cattle and horses, which, incorporated with the manure and stirred faithfully by the hogs, is, when shoveled out, just in the proper state to apply to the land as the most valuable fertilizer; previously it was measurably lost, to say nothing of the wash of the house.

The above is my opinion, and the way I have managed. Already I am satisfied that I am paid more than twelve per cent. by the alteration.

Winstow, April 27, '88. AGRICULTURIST.

For the Maine Farmer.

MANURE SHEEDS. Mr. Editor.—Your correspondent, Mr. Ward, of China, in the last Farmer, makes an enquiry as to the best method of building manure sheds. Last fall I built a shed over the heaps that are thrown from my barn, in the following manner,—which I then thought was the best method for me; but that it will prove so, to others, is not for me to say:—

My frame was composed of rafters, braces, and ribs, only. The rafters were framed into posts in the barn with dovetail and key; braces from post to rafter, with foot laid so high as not to be at all in the way; lower end of the rafters over square, and two-inch plank spiked on to receive the lower end of the boards; also, plank spiked to the barn between each rafter to receive the top ends; boarded and shingled, and the barn above shingled, so as to make all tight.

I have the same chance for removing my manure heaps as before, and they are covered from the rain, and most of the snow and sun. My shed covers 114 ft. from the barn, and the eaves are from 8 to 9 ft. from the ground.

When I built my barn, in 1838, the corner under which I wished to have my horse stable was nearly 5 ft. from the ground. I scraped out the dirt under the size of my stable, the bottom being about 6 ft. from the stable floor, and stoned up three sides, or two ends and one side, leaving the other open. Over this I built a tight shed, 15 ft. wide, with doors at the end to back in a cart for the manure. In this shed, or cellar, as it may be called, I keep my hogs, that they may work over the horse-bedding, and anything that I see fit to throw in to them.

A shed may be made for this purpose, where there is no chance to dig out; but it should be made warm, so that the hogs may be able to work in winter.

Three years ago, I built a light sheep shed, connected with, and across, one end of my barn, 12 ft. in width, with posts on back side, 12 ft. between joints—and doors opposite the barn floor, so as to pass through with cart the same as before. The rack extends the whole length next to the barn, so that I can feed from the floor and not disturb the sheep. In this shed my sheep stay the most of the time, and leave their manure under cover. By having so much room overhead, I can close up tight in cold and blustering weather, and still the sheep have plenty of good air, which is very necessary for the health of animals, as well as man.

I have a root cellar, that will hold 1000 bushels, under my mow, which was built very cheap. My hay drops 34 ft. below the sill. I dug 3 ft. deep under 25 ft. of barn-floor sill, and far enough below to stone up and leave a cellar 10 ft. wide. I then stoned up 4 ft., put on a sill and posts, then another sill, even with the floor sill; then boarded tight on both sides, laid sleepers, and covered over with boards. Hay drops down to bottom of lower sill on one side and end; the other side and end are secured by straw, piled against them. This cellar I find very convenient for the roots I wish to feed to my stock,—worth ten times the cost, for it was mostly built in rainy weather.

S. N. WATSON.
North Fayette, April 23d, 1888.

OUTSIDE VIEW OF MAINE.

In my rambles for the last few years through the various States of the Union, I have often been struck with the fact, that the advantages of Maine, natural and acquired, are more fully appreciated by the well informed inhabitants of distant States, than by the people of Maine themselves. Often have I been questioned by some shrewd business man of the west, or south, much as follows: "Why, has not Maine a vast extent of fine grazing country?" Yes. "Has she not an abundance of fertile tillage yet uncultivated, and another abundance but half cultivated?" Yes. "Is she not one of the best fruit growing States in the Union?" Yes. "Has she not scattered all over the State an abundance of water power available for manufacturing purposes, which, if improved, would open new markets at the very doors of the farmers?" Yes. "Has she not vast tracts of lumber producing country?" Yes. "Has she not immense mineral treasures cropping out all over her surface, inviting capital and enterprise to reap a rich harvest?" Yes. "Has she not churches, schools, society, roads, bridges, railroads, steamboats, and all the apparatus of civilization and progress?" Yes. "Has she not a population, which for morality, intelligence, enterprise, and everything that goes to constitute 'Young America,' cannot be surpassed?" Yes. "Then, why in the name of all common sense does not that population stay at home and improve these many advantages?" What could I say to this? Was there any good reason? If there was, or is, I was ignorant of it, and am so still.

For several years the mental vision of the "young men and maidens" of Maine has been very peculiarly affected. Microscopic, when viewing the inconveniences of home, it at once becomes telescopic when viewing the advantages of distant localities. The beauties of a log cabin, (which at home would not be thought fit for a hog-pen) squat in the mud, and with the ague so thick around it that one could cut it with a knife, are perfectly enticing; while the inconveniences of a neat, well built, warm farm house, with its carpets, pictures and cozy arrangements, its school within a half mile, and its church within a mile, are utterly unbearable. Or, with the young man—to labor out in the health giving hours of daylight, with the whole of his evenings for mental improvement, and at all times the conscious independent feeling of his being his own master; this is entirely unseemly, though insuring him physical, mental and moral vigor, and an honorable competence. But to travel fifteen hours a day behind the counter of some city skin-flint, the mind constantly on stretch to invent some new lie to entrap the unwary into a trade, and the conscience perpetually being seared by "sins within or without,"—this is so inviting a prospect that the giving of a few years of the golden period of youth, weighs as nothing in the balance. "Tis pity 'tis true."

But a change is beginning to come over the spirit of the dreams of the young people of Maine, and that is an encouraging sign for the future of the State. Many who have left have found that "all is not gold that glitters," and will find their way back to their native State, and many more would if they could. Let those at home take warning by the experience of others, and let them stay at home and develop the sources of wealth and progress so profusely poured out all around them, and the future of Maine will be surpassed by the future of no State in the Union. Such, at least, is the opinion gained by both an "inside" and an "outside view."

S. K. T.
Philadelphia, April 28th, 1888.

WHEAT STRAW.

Last season we were presented with a specimen of wheat straw for examination, which had grown on a piece of land formerly very productive in this species of grain, but which had failed to produce it for some years, except in very diminished quantities. On examining the texture of the straw, it was found to be lax, and without "stiffness" or strength. The cause of this was at once apparent. The soluble silica of the soil necessary to the production of a firm, glossy straw had been exhausted by the previous crops, and the present one had failed from want of a supply. No wheat can be produced where this mineral ingredient does not exist. It is still more difficult to grow barley where there is not considerable sand or gravel.

Land for wheat should not be made very rich; if it is, there will be a great growth of long, coarse straw, which will be quite likely to fall before the berry is formed, and the crop fails. There is little danger of this in the Indian corn crop—it will bear almost any amount of manure. Where it is intended to lay land to grass with wheat, it is best to manure rather lightly for the wheat, if the land is in tolerably good condition, and add the fine manure to the young grass immediately after the wheat is harvested.

[New England Farmer.]

A MONSTER GRAPE VINE.

A Los Angeles correspondent of the Alta California writes as follows:—

At Montecito, four miles from Santa Barbara, there is a grape vine, probably the largest in the world. Its dimensions and yield would be incredible, were it not that my informant is a man of veracity, and he spoke from personal observation. It is a single vine, the main stock being ten feet in diameter. It is trained upon a trellis 60 feet in diameter. My informant, with another person, counted 7000 bunches, and the estimated yield was 18,000 pounds of fruit. Can this be beaten? The only thing that surprised me in the relation of my friend was that any person in Santa Barbara should have displayed the energy necessary to build the trellis for this noble vine.

PORK PACKING AT THE WEST. The Cincinnati Price Current reports that the number of hogs slaughtered in the States of Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin and Tennessee, for the year 1887-8, was 2,130,778, being an increase of 278,299 over the previous year. The increase in weight was 8,874,758 pounds.

THE OLD FOLKS' ROOM.

The old man sat by the chimney fire, His face was wrinkled and wan, And he leaned both hands on his stout oak cane, As if all his work were done.

His coat was of good old fashioned gray, The pockets were deep and wide, Where his "spec" and his steel tobacco box Lay snugly side by side.

So, near him the logs were kept; Sometimes he mused as he gazed at the coals, Sometimes he sat and slept.

What saw he in the embers there? Ah! pictures of other years; And now and then they wakened smiles, But gooder started tears.

His good wife sat on the other side, I see 'neath the pile of her muslin cap The sheen of her silvery hair.

There's a happy look on her aged face, As she busily knits for him, And Nellie takes up the stitches dropped, For grandmother's eyes are dim.

Their children come and read the news, To pass the time each day; How it stirs the blood in an old man's heart, To hear of the world away.

'Tis a lonely scene, I told you so, But pleasant it is to view; At least I thought it so myself, And sketched it down for you.

Be kind unto the old, my friend, They're worn with this world's strife, Though bravely once per chance they fought The stern fierce battle of life.

They taught our youthful feet to climb Upward life's rugged slope; Then let us lead them gently down To where the weary sleep.

WEANING CALVES.

A farmer sends his plan of weaning calves, to the Country Gentleman, as follows:—

This year I have fed five calves with half the labor and better success than I fed three last year. My plan is to let the calf be with the cow until the third day; then take it away, and commence feeding. Set the milk twenty-four hours, then skim it. Then I take good hay and put it in a kettle and steep it well, until the liquid is of a dark color. This liquid is sweet, and a very natural nourishment. Add about one-half of this liquid or hay tea to half of milk. Pour the hay tea into the milk while warm, so as to heat the milk to the right temperature. The old process of heating milk is more apt to burn, and it will sour sooner. After two or three weeks, I feed them sour milk with the hay tea mixture occasionally. I feed them about eight quarts apiece three times a day, for about two weeks; then I think twice a day will answer. I find that calves fed in this way thrive better and are fatter, and are more hardy than when fed on new milk alone, or allowed to run with the cow, and it is also more profitable to the farmer. I make from four to five dollars a week from the five cows, by selling the milk. The nutritive qualities taken from the milk are supplied by the hay tea.

As cattle have become high and scarce, I think farmers should pay more attention to the rearing of young stock.

EARTH WORMS.

In the more solid earths, clays, and clay loam, a long, cylindrical worm, much sought for by truant boys and sporting men, who affection the trout, perch, &c. This is a genuine worm, never appearing in another form, as do many of the so-called worms. In the early spring and during rains in summer, the earth worm is lively, penetrating the earth in all directions. When the soil is dry, this worm goes down deep, forms a chamber, and coils itself in a very close knot.

The earth worm is an important agricultural laborer. I have met with two short statements in regard to the services rendered by it to the soil, which may interest the reader. A scientific writer on Zoology says: "The burrowing of earth worms is a process exceedingly useful to the gardener and agriculturist; and these animals are far more useful to man in this way, than they are injurious by destroying vegetables. They give a kind of under tillage to the land, performing the same below ground that the spade does above for the garden, and the plow for arable land, loosening the earth so as to render it permeable to air and water. As it lately been shown that they will ever add to the depth of soil, covering burrow tracks with a layer of productive mould. Thus, in fields that have been overgrown with lime, burnt manure, or other substances are in time covered with finely divided soil, well adapted to the support of vegetation."

[Granite State Farmer.]

BORERS PLASTERED UP. We lately heard of a fruit-grower who, after cutting out a number of grubs from his peach trees, thought he would try the experiment of *walling* in a few. So he took some pure white clay, and plastered up the holes left by the gentleman within. The clay soon became dry, the wound healed over, and of course, the borers were smothered. Taking a hint from this, we last summer, cut off the retreat of a worker in one of our young English elms. He had bored his way into the tree, an inch or more, and then ascended, pushing behind him, and out of the hole, the debris made by his incursions. With a sort of malicious delight, we cleared out the mouth of the hole with a knife, and then filled it up with a mixture of gum shellac, made with the consistency of thick cream. This dried very soon, and of course gave the borer an airtight parlor, which was fatal to his health and future explorations. [American Agriculturist.]

STARCH FROM HORSE CHESTNUTS. This fruit contains a great quantity of starch, and as the tree will grow almost anywhere, it would be advisable to apply the hitherto useless fruit to a valuable purpose. The tree is one of the most beautiful, and might well be planted along our streets and roads.

ATTACH A TREADEL TO YOUR GRINDSTONE. It will give the time and labor of a man when you can rely upon it from the field. See to it; make a treadle.

A MORNING IN AN OLD SWAMP.

At a period when so much interest is felt in the subject of Drainage, it is important that persons engaged in the operation should not only have access to the best works on the subject, and communication with intelligent men who have given the matter thought, investigation and practical attention, but they should be referred to works going on and also in a completed state, in order to determine, by the practical efforts of others, whether it is feasible and advisable for them to embark in a similar enterprise on their own estates. For cautious and well considered movements would save farmers, as well as men in other callings, from many disastrous experiments that not only exhaust their means, but fill them afterwards with prejudices that are not well founded, and that are exceedingly difficult to be removed.

It is with this view that we give an account of a morning visit to an old swamp—to state where an extensive operation in drainage is now being carried on, and to suggest to those contemplating similar operations, that they may find much in this work towards settling the question whether they will embark in such an enterprise or not.

It was a windy morning in early March when Mr. J. H. Shedd, of the firm of Shedd & Elson, Civil Engineers and Surveyors, Boston, took us to the pleasant town of Milton, seven miles from Boston, to look at lands now going through the process of being underdrained, and belonging to Messrs. John A. Cunningham and John M. Forbes, both Boston merchants, but who have an eye for the useful and beautiful in country life.

The tract on which the drains are located is considerably elevated above that immediately north of it, and in this direction, and by means of this elevation, the necessary fall for the main is obtained. The east and west sides are flanked by hills, and terminate in somewhat extensive plains or table land.

The surface and the soil through which the drains pass are quite variable; sometimes presenting a level surface, with a rich black soil, at others undulating, and presenting below, stones, rocks, gravel, clay, in one instance a quicksand about as ready to find its level as water itself, and below most of these a hard pan subsoil.

This interval, or space between the hills, was formerly covered during a greater part of the year with stagnant water, supplied from the hills, acting as reservoirs, on either side. But being well wooded with a rich growth of young oaks, maples and elms, the project was conceived of converting it into a park or pleasure ground, by the permanent removal of the water, and reducing the soil to a state of dryness and solidity; and by the construction of avenues, and the introduction of such other features as might be desirable.

The trench for the main drain is 1450 feet in length, about 41 feet in depth, and 31 feet wide at top, by 3 feet at the bottom. The last fall in any portion of the drain is three-tenths of a foot in a hundred feet.

The lateral drains on the easterly side of the main are ten in number, with an aggregate length of 1900 feet, their average length being 190 feet. These drains were laid out at distances 100 feet apart, are on the line of half-rise with the steepest ascent, and their ends run well into the hills.

The tract to be drained has very properly been made into two divisions, as the condition of the surface naturally requires two main drains to lead off the water from the laterals. It ought to be stated, too, that there was a fair sample of those *diurnal* swamps which abound in nearly every portion of New England. Now, the surface presented is extremely uneven, and abounds with a mass of decaying vegetation, black, almy and disagreeable, where hawmosses, rotten roots, and masses of leaves and brakes may become active agents in fertilizing and rearing more useful and agreeable plants. [N. E. Farmer.]

CLOSING A CREVASSE. The New Orleans Picayune of the 18th inst says:—

"The crevasse above this city is now one of the most fashionable of resorts. Hundreds of visitors are daily going and returning, and the neighborhood is thronged with the curious, gazing upon the wild rush of waters, the workmen struggling against their sweeping tide, and the expanded lake where lately were cultivated fields. There is no abatement in the current which sets back from the river, but the contractors at work attempting to close the crevasse have made good progress. A steam-piling machine was got in order yesterday, in the morning, and the work of driving piles commenced. Before night rows had been driven almost entirely across the chasm. A large number of hands were employed preparing sand bags and bringing them to the spot where they are to be used. The mode by which the crevasse is proposed to be stopped is to drive three rows of piles so that when the third is completed a sufficient space will not remain between the piles to permit a sand bag to be swept away, vast quantities of which are thrown down in front of the piles. The water begins to appear from the swamp in the rear of the town of Gretna, and if the crevasse be not soon closed, all the villages on the other side of the river will seriously suffer."

STONE FENCES, neatly built and well kept up, give a finished look to the farm—a look which no other fence can give as well. Let those who have the material put them up, by all means.

WEST PENOBSCOT AG. SOCIETY.

LIST OF PREMIUMS.

The following is a List of Premiums offered by the Trustees of this Society, for 1888.

Or Stock.

Best entire horse, \$5; 2d, 4; 3d, 3; 4th, 2; best breeding mare and colt, 2; 2d, 1.75; 3d, 1.50; 4th, 1.25; 5th, 1; best four years old colt, 1.75; 2d, 1.50; 3d, 1.25; 4th, 1; best three years old colt, 1.50; 2d, 1.25; 3d, 1; best two years old colt, 1.50; 2d, 1.25; 3d, 1; best one year old colt, 1.25; 2d, 1; 3d, .75; best pair team horses, 2; 2d, 1.75; 3d, 1.50; best carriage horse, 2; 2d, 1.75; 3d, 1.50; 4th, 1.25; 5th, 1.

Best full blood Durham bull over two years old, 5; best do, yearling bull, 3; best do, bull calf, 2; best full blood Devon bull over two years old, 5; best do, yearling bull, 3; best do, calf, 2; best grade bull, 2; 2d, 1.50; 3d, 1; best grade bull calf, 1.25; 2d, 1; 3d, .75; best pair oxen, 2; 2d, 1.75; 3d, 1.50; 4th, 1.25; best pair four year oxen, 2; 2d, 1.75; 3d, 1.50; 4th, 1.25; best pair three year oxen, 1.75; 2d, 1.50; 3d, 1.25; best pair two year oxen, 1.75; 2d, 1.50; 3d, 1.25; 4th, 1; best pair yearling steers, 1.75; 2d, 1.50; 3d, 1.25; 4th, 1; best pair steer calves, 1.25; 2d, 1; 3d, .75.

Best team of oxen over five years old, eight yokes, from any one town, 4; 2d, 3; 3d, 2; best do, four yokes, old, do, 4; 2d, 3; 3d, 2; best do, three yokes, old, do, 4; 2d, 3; 3d, 2; best team for plowing, 2 acre, 1.50; 2d, 1.25; 3d, 1.

Best milk cow, 1.50; 2d, 1.25; 3d, 1; best stock cow, with specimen of her stock, 1.75; 2d, 1.50; 3d, 1.25; best three years old heifer, 1.50; 2d, 1.25; 3d, 1; best two years old heifer, 1.50; 2d, 1.25; 3d, 1; best yearling heifer, 1.25; 2d, 1;



THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 13, 1888.

ENLARGED WATER PIPES PROPOSED.

The conveyance of water in pipes of different kinds has been practiced for many years. Wooden pipes were formerly used, but the decay to which they are subject is an objection. Lead pipes next came into general use, and still continue to be used probably more than any other kind of material. They have many properties which commend them, and make them, perhaps, the most convenient of anything. They are flexible, and therefore can be easily adjusted to all the angles, and ups and downs required. They are durable and may be afforded comparatively cheap. But amid all these good qualities there is one, which is a very serious one, and that is the poisonous quality of its salts which, if formed, become dissolved in the water. It is not always that the water acts upon the lead so as to form any salts, but whenever it does a slow but sure poison becomes mingled and dissolved in the water, and we to man or beast that drink of it any considerable time.

Within a few years gutta serena have been used. Of these we can say but little, not having any experience with them or seen much of them. We have heard, however, that they are excellent. Tubes of hydraulic cement have been used. These are good, but they must be manufactured in the trench, and it is not always convenient to do this.

Glass has been recommended, and perhaps there can be nothing purer for water pipes than this material when made without any metallic oxides with the silica. It is also comparatively of cheap material, but there is great difficulty in uniting the joints perfectly tight.

Iron tubes enamelled on the inside, as many cooking utensils are enamelled, seem to meet most of the objections made against other kinds of tubes, where perfectly clean, and pure water is desired. These might be made easily, and at reasonable cost compared with some other kinds of tubing used.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN BOSTON.

A most disastrous fire broke out at about half past one o'clock on Sunday morning, 2d inst., in the six-story granite warehouse, No. 137 Federal street, Boston, occupied by the Douglas & Co., and Messrs. Sanborn, Carter & Babin, as a book-binding and printing office. The Boston Advertiser gives the following particulars:

The fire is supposed to have originated in the upper story. It spread with great rapidity, and owing to the height of the building it could not be easily quelled. In less than an hour the roof was on fire and the whole building in a blaze. The fire was soon communicated to the adjoining store, occupied by Grant, Warren & Co., paper dealers, and passed from store to store down wards, till the whole store and its contents were destroyed.

Two horses of Tremont Engine No. 12 were standing on the roof of the brick dwelling-house on the corner of Milton place, although they had been cautioned against going there, when the south wall of the store fell, killing them instantly, and hurrying them in the street. Their names were John W. Tuttle and Francis F. Cotting. An Irishman, named Jerry Reardon, who was coming down stairs at the time, and a woman who lived in the house, were both seriously injured and were taken to the hospital. At the last accounts they were still living. Babbit's soap store, the next north of Grant, Warren & Co.'s, and a building in Milton place, were also crushed by the falling of walls.

Messrs. Sanborn, Carter & Babin, who had an entire new stock of presses, tools, &c., together with upwards of seventy thousand dollars worth of stereotype plates in the cellar of the building. They were insured for \$25,000. Grant, Warren & Co.'s insurance is stated to be \$75,000. The Douglas & Co. insured for \$30,000. Curtis Pittman, who occupied the liquor store in the building at the corner of Milton place, had an insurance of \$20,000 at the Firemen's office, and J. Ballard, the owner of a crushed building in Milton place, was insured for \$30,000 by the Franklin Insurance Company.

The insurance on the granite stores, which were owned by John G. Torrey, is stated at \$20,000 in the Merchants' office.

On Monday morning, the body of Patrick Reardon, who had been missing since the fire, was found in the ruins of the crushed brick house, corner of Federal St. and Milton place, badly crushed, but slightly broken.

Jeremiah Reardon, who was taken to the Hospital badly injured, died on Tuesday morning. This makes four lives lost by this fire, which is the most disastrous one that has occurred in Boston for several years.

FATAL ACCIDENT. We learn from the Dover (N. H.) Gazette that as Mr. Peter Ross, of Acton, Me., with his family, consisting of wife and two little boys, were riding on Sunday, 2d inst., and while descending a steep hill, Mr. R. having got out of the wagon to walk down the hill, his horse being a young one, and he thinking it the safer course, the reins were jerked from his hands, and the horse started on the run down the hill. At a short distance from the foot of the hill, the wagon upset, when Mrs. Ross and children were thrown violently into the gutter upon the rocks, several feet below the level of the road. Mrs. Ross had her thigh broken, and her head badly cut and bruised. The little boy's skull was broken and otherwise injured, so that he died soon after the accident. The surviving boy is seriously if not fatally injured. Mrs. Ross is in a critical condition.

NEW FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES. Several fire insurance companies incorporated by the last Legislature have already completed their organization, and will immediately commence business. The officers of the Eastern Mutual Fire Insurance Company, one of the new corporations, are:—John L. Bowman, President; E. B. Clark, Secretary & Treasurer; C. H. Dyer, W. W. Chapman, John Beckard, Directors.

SHADE TREES IN WINTHROP. The ladies of Wintthrop gave a collection on Thursday evening last, to those gentlemen who had been most active in beautifying the streets of the town by setting out shade trees, &c. We have received an account of the proceedings, which were obliged to omit until our next.

DEATH OF AN OLD SETTLER. Mr. Sam'l Frost, of Belgrade, whose death is announced in another column, was one of the oldest settlers in the town of Belgrade. He was a native of Lebanon, York County, and moved to Belgrade 55 years ago. He has represented his town in the Legislature.

THE ANDROSCOGGIN RAILROAD. We learn from the Argus that the work of laying the sleepers on the Androscoggin Railroad track between Bartlett's Corner and Farmington, commenced on the 3d inst. The directors of the road expressed a confident opinion that the road will be speedily completed to Farmington.

WON'T BE A CITY. The voters of Brunswick, a few days since, on the question of accepting the city charter offered them by the last Legislature, decided to reject it, by 101 majority out of 545 votes.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

THE HAPPY HOME. By KIRWAN, author of "Letters to Bishop Hughes," &c. New York: Harper & Brothers; Boston: A. Williams & Co. The author has here presented the reading public with a work that contains much of practical interest to all who desire to enjoy that greatest of earthly blessings, a happy home. The moral and religious training of the family are treated upon at considerable length. Sent free of postage for 50 cts.

THE POWER OF GRACE, or Incidents and Narratives of Wonderful Conversions in answer to prayer. New York: C. M. Saxton, 25 Park Row. This work is a collection of narratives of wonderful conversions, and is designed for Sabbath School teachers, pastors, and parents. This is one of the many books called forth by the recent revival in religious feeling, and will be sent free, on receipt of \$1.00.

AN OROSCOPE LICKER. We are pleased to notice that our friend Whitney has his mill yard covered with handsome pine and spruce logs, clap-board cut, &c. The logs are large and handsome—not such crooked little sticks as we saw last winter, hauled through the streets of Augusta, and called logs—such as our farmers here would not think of making fence of. No, no, such things are piled up in sight of our windows, ready for the saw, but real, honest logs—large, straight and handsome. If our Kennebec friends want proof, we just come and see for yourselves. [Arroctook Pioneer.]

Very likely, friend Hall, you may have seen just such little sticks as you describe passing through our streets, and, were you to view the rods of fancy piled up here, been awed into saying, "A bipped call of its mother, the little, we use them for." We should like to take you up to the dam, and show you some thousands of boards piled up there, from twenty-four to forty-three inches (3ft. 7in.) wide. But you need say no more. We know you have a good country, up there, for other things than wood, and sent you, to-day, from old Kennebec, three families, who prefer Maine to any other State in the Union, and are determined to give Arroctook a fair trial, in preference to venturing their all in western lands.

AN IMPORTANT OMISSION. Notwithstanding the general excellence and reliability of the new Cyclopaedia, a sharp-sighted contemporary, the New York Post, has detected an omission, which cannot be regarded as an important one—by young persons, at any rate. Here are its comments:—

Omission in the New Cyclopaedia.—Baby: The judge, jury and sentence of every well-regulated family. A thing that squeaks at midnight, and will not be comforted by any quantity of water. A bipped call of its mother, the little, we use them for. We should like to take you up to the dam, and show you some thousands of boards piled up there, from twenty-four to forty-three inches (3ft. 7in.) wide. But you need say no more. We know you have a good country, up there, for other things than wood, and sent you, to-day, from old Kennebec, three families, who prefer Maine to any other State in the Union, and are determined to give Arroctook a fair trial, in preference to venturing their all in western lands.

TUCKERMAN'S SENTENCE. The result of Tuckerman's trial we published last week. On Tuesday, sentence was pronounced by Judge Ingels on the U. S. Circuit Court of Maine. It was twenty years imprisonment with hard labor, in the State Prison. The telegraphic dispatch says, "during the address of the Judge, Tuckerman shook convulsively, as if he were being condemned to death." If other accounts state that he appeared perfectly satisfied and indifferent. He might, upon the four indictments upon which he was tried, have been sentenced for forty years.

AN INTERESTING WORK. We find in the Bath Tribune an announcement of a forthcoming work entitled "The Ancient Domains of Maine," of which the early history of the settlements on the Kennebec will form by no means the least interesting portion. Several views of scenery in Maine, among others a sketch of the entrance of Kennebec, with its islands, and a fancy view of Fort St. George, and Popham's town of fifty houses, at the mouth of the Kennebec, and the ship Virginia (the first ship ever built in America) the stocks seen there in 1007 from Parker's Head, will be given.

PACIFIC, No. 4. The officers of the Pacific Engine Co., No. 4, of this city, for the present year, are as follows:

Foreman—Benjamin A. Swan.
2d Foreman—J. W. Welch.
Foreman of Hose—Amos C. Starkey.
2d Foreman of Hose—James B. Woodman.
Clerk—Howard Owen.

Leading Hosemen—W. A. Swan, Granville Burns, James S. Farnham, H. C. Wadsworth.

BANGOR LUMBER MARKET. The quantity and kind of lumber shipped in Bangor, from Jan. 1 to May 1, 1888, as appears by the statement of the Bangor papers, are as follows:—

Grain Pine, 1,535,472
Dry, 1,669,756
Spruce, 4,051,527
Hemlock, &c., 1,473,431

Total, 8,730,131

QUEEN VICTORIA. We see the report is again stated that Queen Victoria intends visiting Canada, the coming summer. Should it prove to be true, we doubt not that she would be induced to pay her American neighbors a short visit, at the same time.

CLAIMS OF MAINE. The Kennebec Journal has the following extract from a private letter from Washington, in relation to the claims of our State against the general government:

"I learn from Mr. Weston, that the House Committee on Claims have agreed upon a bill in favor of Maine, similar to that reported in the Senate a few days since by Gov. Polk, from the Committee on Foreign Relations. The House report is dated January 10th, and the bill is now in the hands of the Senate. The bill indemnifies Maine for the discount upon her stocks negotiated in 1839 and 1840, to raise money for the Arroctook war. The bill provides for the payment, not only of that discount, but for the interest upon it. It is supposed that the allowance under this bill, will be about forty-five thousand dollars. Mr. Weston hopes to get the bill through Congress, but hardly through more than one branch this session."

SALE OF MANUFACTURING PROPERTY IN SACARAPPA. The auction sale of the entire real estate, machinery, &c., of the Portland Manufacturing Company, at Sacarappa yesterday forenoon, resulted in its being knocked off to Samuel E. Spring, Esq., of Portland, the city (being a company of persons), for 25,000—one-third cash, balance in eight and ten months. This is the same property struck off a few weeks since at \$30,000, but the purchaser did not meet his offer. It is considered very valuable property for the sum bid for it.

The property of the Sacarappa Manufacturing Company, being all their real and personal property, was sold in the afternoon. It was sold in three lots to Ira Crocker for \$1,900; to one H. J. Libby for \$1,600, and one to Dan Carpenter for \$550. Total sale \$9,050. [Portland Advertiser, 6th.]

SINGULAR PHENOMENON. At Milwaukie, last Thursday, a tidal wave rushed into the river, up to the level of the water, and doing other damage. An equally rapid tide fell, and the water succeeded in rushing back. The phenomenon was more marked on the beach of the lake. At one pier the water before the fall was within three feet of the floor of a warehouse, when it retired rapidly, leaving dry ground under the building. In about twenty minutes the water rushed back to its former level, rising so high as to force up the flooring of the warehouse, and to flow into cellars in the lower part of the town. The difference between the highest and lowest points, within three quarters of an hour, was fully six feet. The occurrence crosses great wonderment at Milwaukie.

GATHERED NEWS FRAGMENTS, &c.

Opinion of the Supreme Court upon the New Law on Murder. The Governor and Council, a few days since requested of the Judges of the Supreme Court, an opinion, whether, under the law of 1853, defining the degrees of murder, they could legally issue a warrant for the execution of McGee and Jones, who are under sentence of death for murder. The Court in reply, have given an opinion that the present law offers no obstacle to the issue of a death warrant in a case where there has been a conviction and sentence.

Hanging Cows. The flooring of a stable in New Bedford gave way, a few nights since, by which five cows, tied to stanchions, were hung up by their necks and found dead in the morning.

Gambler's Implements. By order of the Boston Chief of Police, the implements taken from the gambler's dens in Portland and Howard Streets, were destroyed on Wednesday in Court square. The smoke of burning dice boxes, cards, faro tables and counters, ascended and entered the open windows of the temple where justice sits enthroned to mete out condign punishment (\$10 and costs) to experts in "cribbage," "high, low, jack," and "euchre."

Vermont Sugar Crop. The maple sugar season in Vermont is about over, the crop being a full average one, or a trifle less than three pounds to the tree.

Caution to the Ladies. The new Azof green of the Paris spring fashions is dyed with such poisonous materials that seamstresses who prick their fingers while sewing it, lose the use of their hands, and ladies have been taken violently ill from wearing shawls of this color. The tint is very brilliant.

A Prisoner. A few days since a man was received into the Massachusetts State Prison from Plymouth County to serve out a term for robbery who has been an inmate of prisons almost continually since the last war with England, 1812-13. It seems to have a penchant for larceny, and is apparently out of his element when out of prison. The longest period of late that he has enjoyed his freedom was fifteen months.

May Mowing. In New York, on Saturday, the Times, News, Express and Day Book establishments all changed their quarters. The Evening Post says there were more changes of residence in that city and Brooklyn than have occurred for many years. A large proportion of houses are now standing empty, and rents have fallen on the East River side of the city. Families occupying whole houses have taken up with suits of rooms, and many have resorted to the expedient of boarding.

A Mourner Arrested. A New York pickpocket, named Hatfield has done an extensive business by attending funerals, where it was his custom to press to the side of the coffin and mingle his tears with those of the bereaved friends of the departed. While thus lavishing his sympathies upon the mourners, he contrived generally to relieve a number of them of the valuables in their pockets. So many tears has he shed, and so many pockets has he picked at funerals, that he obtained the sobriquet of the "Chief Mourner," among the police and his own circle of acquaintances. He has been arrested.

Disastrous Fire. Montreal, May 1. The Converse Rope Factory was destroyed by fire this afternoon. The foreman of the factory and three girls were burned to death. A man jumped out of the fourth story window and broke his back. The loss by the fire has not yet been ascertained, but is very heavy, and the property is said to be uninsured.

Ship Burnt at Sea. Halifax, May 3. Steamer Osprey, from Newfoundland, arrived at this port on Saturday. On the 29th, fell in with ship Majestic, twenty-one days from Liverpool for Charlottetown, P. E. I., on fire, and took off twenty passengers and the crew. The flames burst through the deck of the ship just before the Osprey parted from her.

Death of an Ex-Congressman. Albany, May 4. The Hon. Samuel Dickinson, a member of the last Congress from this District, died last evening. His death was the result of spinal injuries received by missing his chair, and falling when about to sit down while at Washington.

Paving Off. Col. Benton, in speaking of Congressional matters, said he never "paired off," but once in his life, and that was with a young woman, the night he got married.

Arrest for Murder. Chicago, May 6. A man named Henry Gumpert was arrested here last night for the murder of the woman whose remains were found in a barrel at the Hudson River Railroad depot in New York some time since. He says that he hung himself in his room, but confesses that he cut up and shipped the body, not knowing how else to dispose of it.

The Third Comet of 1858. A new comet was discovered at Harvard College Observatory by Mr. Horace P. Tuttle on the 24 inst., at 10 h. P. M. Its position, as determined by Mr. G. P. Bond, on 1858—May 3, R. A.—0h. 53m.—Dec.—plus. 35° 10'. Motion, chiefly in right ascension, increasing about one degree daily.

The Salt Lake Mail. St. Louis, May 7. The weekly Salt Lake Mail, under the new contract, left St. Joseph, Mo., on Saturday last, with about eight hundred pounds of mail matter and several passengers. The line connects at Salt Lake with one for Shasta City, Cal. The service to Salt Lake will be performed in twenty-two days, and thence to Shasta in twelve days.

A Desperate Stroke for a Husband. A strange story is told by the New Haven Journal, which says that a young man of Bethany, of highly respectable connections and an only son, being about to leave his home for South America, made a few calls upon his acquaintances, when a young lady who was desperately attached to him, as her last means of gaining him, had the means to plan with some of her associates to drown him and have him taken to law justice of the Peace, who is a disgrace to the office, where the marriage ceremony was performed.

DEATH OF HON. JOSEPH DANE. Joseph Dane died at his residence in Kennebec, Me., on Saturday last. From 1820 to 1823 he represented the York district in Congress, was subsequently in the Legislature as a member of the House for six years, and was a member of the Senate in 1829. Mr. Dane was chosen a member of the Executive Council of Massachusetts in 1817, and to a similar station in Maine in 1841, but he declined both offices. He was a nephew of Nathan Dane of Beverly, whose name is associated with the ordinance of 1787. He graduated at Harvard in 1799, and settled in Kennebec early in the present century.

NARROW ESCAPE. On Sunday afternoon two men from Bangor undertook to ferry four gentlemen across the river at Oldtown to the island. Not being aware of the rapid current in the middle of the river, they undertook to pass directly across, and on striking the current the boat was born rapidly down toward the falls below. They lost all control of the boat, and were in imminent danger of being dashed over the falls, when they were fortunately rescued by two able-bodied Indians, Sam Zorp and Sol Neptune, at the risk of their own lives. [Union.]

SUDDEN DEATH. Mr. George W. Rigby, of Limerick, while engaged in rolling logs into the stream near the residence of Mr. R. Adams, on the 15th ult., accidentally slipped, fell under the rolling logs and was instantly killed. He leaves a wife and children. [Arroctook Pioneer.]

IMPORTANT SUIT.

An important suit against the city, involving a large amount of money will probably come up for trial before the Supreme Court the present month. It is a suit in equity which James Cunningham, Esq., of New York, formerly a resident of Boston, and late owner of the steamer "Admiral," plying between St. John, N. B., and Boston, brings against the city of Boston. It is a suit to recover \$30,000, paid by him to the Superintendent of Alien Passengers for the port of Boston, previous to the 10th of May, 1848, (the office which the State took charge of the office.) Judge Abbott has been retained full half a cent from the previous week, and very few of the extra good catch realized a price equivalent to ten cents a pound for the meat.

A LONG TRIP FOR A POLICEMAN. Sergeant Devoe, of the Metropolitan police, who was sent to South America in pursuit of John Reynier, alleged to have absconded with \$9000, fraudulently obtained from a Wall street banker, has returned, and reports that he has captured the fugitive at Caracas, in Venezuela; and although, as we have no extradition treaty with that country, he could not bring the culprit back, he succeeded in securing the money, which had been deposited with a banker in Caracas.

[New York Commercial Advertiser.] COUNTERFEITS. New York city is flooded with altered bills on various city banks, and some of them are so well executed that bankers say they take them without suspicion. If their attention was not drawn to the fact of the alteration.

NEW YORK, May 3. The anniversary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions was held in city meeting. The Rev. Mr. Dabney of Virginia delivered the address. The receipts for the year, including a special contribution of \$18,000 for repairing the losses in India, were \$22,000; the expenditures \$207,000.

NEW YORK, May 7. At the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce yesterday, a report was presented on the subject of collisions at sea, in which the course of the French authorities in the case of the Lyons and Adriatic is criticized. The report is signed by the claims in the case of Messrs. Gautier Brothers is just, against the Collins Steamship Company have a claim against the French steamship Vesta for the loss of the ship Vesta. Appended to the report is a draft of a bill in regard to collisions at sea. The merchants intend to agitate for a uniform national law on the subject.

A detachment of 600 troops left Jersey City for New Orleans yesterday.

The St. Paul (Minnesota) Advertiser says Edmund Rice has completed negotiations for the construction of fifty miles of the Minnesota and Pacific R.R. to connect Minneapolis and Duluth, to be completed before the first of December. 1500 hands are already engaged.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH. U. S. S. FALCON, NAGARA. PLYMOUTH, Eng., April 15th, 1888. We are progressing slowly with the cable. Stoppages are frequent, and in answer to our inquiries we are told they are caused by the expertness of the cable, but the real cause is the cable on board our vessel than they do on board the Agamemnon, and to prevent our getting ahead of them, they cause a delay.

We have now on board over five hundred (500) miles; on board the Agamemnon they have between six (600) and seven (700) hundred miles, but it is not called on board this vessel.

The machinery for paying out the cable will be completed in a few days, when it is the intention of the directors to invite engineers of known ability to inspect it while in operation. This, in my opinion, all very well so far as goes; but engineers in England and America are of an unbiased opinion unless he sees it in operation at sea.

Orders were received by Captain Hudson to examine every foot of the wire as it came on board, but as this would prevent the expedition sailing this season, it was discontinued. Orders have been received from the Admiralty, to have placed on all cables, circles, &c., that may be required for the stowing of the cable.

The guard on the stern, to prevent the cable coming in contact with the propeller, will be so arranged as to lift when the ship is going ahead and lowered down when going astern, at present attached to the Agamemnon will be removed, and one similar to the Niagara substituted. The machinery for paying out the cable is now being placed on board.

EXPERIMENTS WITH THE OCEAN TELEGRAPH CABLE. In the experiments made by Mr. Whitehouse, at Greenwich, through one thousand miles of the Atlantic telegraph cable, about half a mile was laid out, making a signal, and the other half was left in the water. One end and its appearance at the other; but the difficulty arising from detection of electricity was then thought to have been overcome.

It appears, however, in the experience through the cable, that a considerable number of obstacles to rapid communication arises from that cause. With the symbolic alphabet at present used, about two words and a half per minute can be transmitted through the whole length of wire, but it is hoped that, by simplifying the code of signals, double that number may be transmitted. Even supposing that object to be attained, the time required to transmit a message more than one-third the speed with which messages can be sent with the present arrangement of the symbols from London to Paris.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE. The intelligent London correspondent of the New York Commercial Advertiser still adheres to his opinion that Louis Napoleon is determined to support his despotism by a war with England, at no distant day. He should and would have gone on in both countries, and every minor indication, from day to day, points to the conclusion. He says:—

"The first signal of the struggle may come at any moment, since nothing would be plainer than that a pretext is now all that is waited for. The refusal difficulty failed to answer the purpose at the time, but even that is still looked to as capable of affording the necessary material for a rupture, in case to other subjects should offer that will involve a less flagrant disregard of decency. When Count Walewski withdrew from further discussion on the point, he left it to the people of England to do what they thought proper. But the people of England have never yet admitted that anything was requisite. Therefore they are not likely to do anything, and the charge can at any time be raised that they have repaid at any time the aid of England by an insulting disregard of her rights. In the hands of Marshal Pelissier a reclamation of this kind will not be frittered down by delicate handlings. But it is evidently hoped that some more covert and diplomatic cause of rupture may be found without delay."

Very likely on the re-assembling of Parliament, the speeches of the peace members in the House of Commons—Messrs. Milner Gibson, and others—will furnish the requisite evidence. It is enough that an assault upon us has been resolved on.

STATE OF TRADE. Our Custom House returns for the month of April show the continued effect of the financial panic of last fall. The total imports into this port for that month were \$6,624,444, and exports \$5,280,730. This shows a decrease of \$1,343,714, or about 20 per cent. The revenue fell off a million and a half. This is a little heavier than the decrease in the imports for March, which were \$8,021,000 less than in March last year. In our exports the improvements in trade were more visible. During the month of March the exports were \$5,000,000 less than last year, while during April the falling off is only \$280,730. This shows that the process of liquidating our debts abroad is going on faster than that of incurring new ones, and thus promises well for the future.

[New York Times.] THE FIRST NEW MORNING. Messrs. McKenney, Part & Co. this morning received from Mr. Boulton, of Essex county, Va., a bundle of sticks of wheat, now measuring forty-five inches in length, and which will be harvested and in market by the latter part of the present month. This is fully six weeks earlier in the season than any wheat has ever before reached this market. The stalks were taken from a field which will produce, it is supposed, not less than eight hundred bushels, and were pulled indiscriminately from the field. [Baltimore Patriot, May 5th.]

SUDDEN DEATH. Mr. Daniel Flanders of Cornville, a very industrious and respectable farmer, died suddenly on Sunday last. He arose in the morning in his usual health, and went to his barn to feed his cattle; while pitching the hay, he dropped down on the mow where he was found a few minutes after, dead. His death was probably caused by heart disease. [Somerset Telegraph.]

NEW YORK ITEMS.

NEW YORK CATTLE MARKET. Yesterday the butchers were jolly—the drovers were not. Both the rain and price of bullocks came down on the run at Bull's Head. Not because of the extra amount of water that was falling did the price fall, but because there was an extra supply of cattle—entirely too great to maintain ten cents a pound for long, when the selling for a cent a pound. There were 2750 cattle in market, the most of them very good beefs, and the average weight probably full 700 pounds, which would make 1,925,000 pounds of beef. This was an over supply, and the market declined full half a cent from the previous week, and very few of the extra good catch realized a price equivalent to ten cents a pound for the meat.

[N. Y. Tribune, 6th.] A LONG TRIP FOR A POLICEMAN. Sergeant Devoe, of the Metropolitan police, who was sent to South America in pursuit of John Reynier, alleged to have absconded with \$9000, fraudulently obtained from a Wall street banker, has returned, and reports that he has captured the fugitive at Caracas, in Venezuela; and although, as we have no extradition treaty with that country, he could not bring the culprit back, he succeeded in securing the money, which had been deposited with a banker in Caracas.

[New York Commercial Advertiser.] COUNTERFEITS. New York city is flooded with altered bills on various city banks, and some of them are so well executed that bankers say they take them without suspicion. If their attention was not drawn to the fact of the alteration.

NEW YORK, May 3. The anniversary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions was held in city meeting. The Rev. Mr. Dabney of Virginia delivered the address. The receipts for the year, including a special contribution of \$18,000 for repairing the losses in India, were \$22,000; the expenditures \$207,000.

NEW YORK, May 7. At the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce yesterday, a report was presented on the subject of collisions at sea, in which the course of the French authorities in the case of the Lyons and Adriatic is criticized. The report is signed by the claims in the case of Messrs. Gautier Brothers is just, against the Collins Steamship Company have a claim against the French steamship Vesta for the loss of the ship Vesta. Appended to the report is a draft of a bill in regard to collisions at sea. The merchants intend to agitate for a uniform national law on the subject.

A detachment of 600 troops left Jersey City for New Orleans yesterday.

The St. Paul (Minnesota) Advertiser says Edmund Rice has completed negotiations for the construction of fifty miles of the Minnesota and Pacific R.R. to connect Minneapolis and Duluth, to be completed before the first of December. 1500 hands are already engaged.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH. U. S. S. FALCON, NAGARA. PLYMOUTH, Eng., April 15th, 1888. We are progressing slowly with the cable. Stoppages are frequent, and in answer to our inquiries we are told they are caused by the expertness of the cable, but the real cause is the cable on board our vessel than they do on board the Agamemnon, and to prevent our getting ahead of them, they cause a delay.

We have now on board over five hundred (500) miles; on board the Agamemnon they have between six (600) and seven (700) hundred miles, but it is not called on board this vessel.

The machinery for paying out the cable will be completed in a few days, when it is the intention of the directors to invite engineers of known ability to inspect it while in operation. This, in my opinion, all very well so far as goes; but engineers in England and America are of an unbiased opinion unless he sees it in operation at sea.

Orders were received by Captain Hudson to examine every foot of the wire as it came on board, but as this would prevent the expedition sailing this season, it was discontinued. Orders have been received from the Admiralty, to have placed on all cables, circles, &c., that may be required for the stowing of the cable.

The guard on the stern, to prevent the cable coming in contact with the propeller, will be so arranged as to lift when the ship is going ahead and lowered down when going astern, at present attached to the Agamemnon will be removed, and one similar to the Niagara substituted. The machinery for paying out the cable is now being placed on board.

EXPERIMENTS WITH THE OCEAN TELEGRAPH CABLE. In the experiments made by Mr. Whitehouse, at Greenwich, through one thousand miles of the Atlantic telegraph cable, about half a mile was laid out, making a signal, and the other half was left in the water. One end and its appearance at the other; but the difficulty arising from detection of electricity was then thought to have been overcome.

It appears, however, in the experience through the cable, that a considerable number of obstacles to rapid communication arises from that cause. With the symbolic alphabet at present used, about two words and a half per minute can be transmitted through the whole length of wire, but it is hoped that, by simplifying the code of signals, double that number may be transmitted. Even supposing that object to be attained, the time required to transmit a message more than one-third the speed with which messages can be sent with the present arrangement of the symbols from London to Paris.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE. The intelligent London correspondent of the New York Commercial Advertiser still adheres to his opinion that Louis Napoleon is determined to support his despotism by a war with England, at no distant day. He should and would have gone on in both countries, and every minor indication, from day to day, points to the conclusion. He says:—

"The first signal of the struggle may come at any moment, since nothing would be plainer than that a pretext is now all that is waited for. The refusal difficulty failed to answer the purpose at the time, but even that is still looked to as capable of affording the necessary material for a rupture, in case to other subjects should offer that will involve a less flagrant disregard of decency. When Count Walewski withdrew from further discussion on the point, he left it to the people of England to do what they thought proper. But the people of England have never yet admitted that anything was requisite. Therefore they are not likely to do anything, and the charge can at any time be raised that they have repaid at any time the aid of England by an insulting disregard of her rights. In the hands of Marshal Pelissier a reclamation of this kind will not be frittered down by delicate handlings. But it is evidently hoped that some more covert and diplomatic cause of rupture may be found without delay."

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